

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Application No. 09/475,147

Attorney Docket No. Q58584

REMARKS

Pending claims 1-29 and 31-44 have been examined and are rejected. Specifically, claims 1-4, 6-29 (sic: 6, 12-29) and 31-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Skladman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,400,810 (hereinafter "Skladman"); claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Skladman in view of Shaffer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,094,681 (hereinafter "Shaffer"); claims 7-11 and 38 and 42 (sic: 38-42) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Skladman; and claims 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Skladman in view of Nielsen, U.S. Patent No. 5,813,007 (hereinafter "Nielsen").

Skladman is only prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicants file concurrently herewith a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, with supporting exhibits A-F, to establish that the subject matter of claims 1-29 and 31-44 of the present application was invented before July 20, 1999, *i.e.*, before Skladman's effective filing date. Consequently, Skladman is removed as prior art with respect to claims 1-29 and 31-44 of the present application.

Having removed Skladman as prior art, the rejections of claims 1-29 and 31-44 are overcome. Consequently, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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